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FIRST-CLASS TO GRACE ASHBURN GRASS

PGA TOUR STAR MATT KUCHAR
TO COMPETE AT GOLFEST
THIS SUMMER AT THE NEW
ASHBURN GOLF CLUB **PAGE 19**



Harlem shaken by gas blast

Residents gripped by panic,
think back to 9/11 after blast
levels two buildings **PAGE 6**

Opposites can attract — and amuse

Bette MacDonald to mix
humour, harmony **PAGE 13**

Pair charged in south-end homicide

Cops stay quiet. Man
charged with murder,
woman charged with
accessory after the fact



**PHILIP
CROUCHER**
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Police have charged a 59-year-old Halifax man with second-degree murder in the killing of David William Rose.

In addition, a 29-year-old woman, also of Halifax, has been charged with robbery and being an accessory after the fact to murder.

The charges came Wednesday night, almost 24 hours after the pair were arrested.

The 65-year-old Rose was found inside a South Street home by another resident shortly before 11 p.m. on Sunday.

The accused were ques-

To appear

The man and woman facing charges are both due in Halifax provincial court on Thursday.

tioned all day by investigators, with charges announced around 9:30 p.m.

"They were arrested in two separate locations in Halifax," police spokesman Const. Pierre Bourdages said on Wednesday prior to the charges being laid.

"They were arrested by plain-clothes officers without incident."

Bourdages wouldn't disclose how the victim and the accused are known to one another but said the incident wasn't random.

Police haven't released the cause of death and have been tight-lipped about many details in the case.

GONNA BE A THRILLER LINEUP

David Myles performs with Symphony Nova Scotia at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium as part of its 2014-15 season launch on Wednesday. From Myles to Michael Jackson, the new season is offering a wide variety for music lovers. Story, page 5. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**



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People must be kept safe from drunk driver: MADD

Dangerous offender.

Michael Cooper, who lives in Dartmouth, breaches parole conditions again



HALEY RYAN

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The Atlantic president for Mothers Against Drunk Driving says a decision on how to keep a Nova Scotia man from harming himself or others needs to be made soon, especially after this week's latest breach of his parole.

Michael Gerard Cooper, a Cape Breton man now living in Dartmouth, was released from prison in January after serving seven years for killing Angela Smits, 19, of Sydney and her boyfriend Michael MacLean, 20, with a car after drinking.

Cooper appeared in Halifax court Tuesday, the second time in less than a week, for breaching his 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew

Quoted

"There needs to be decisions made. It shouldn't just be a case that's in limbo, where nobody seems to know what to do."

Susan MacAskill of Mothers Against Drunk Driving

on Monday evening in Dartmouth. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail.

"If he gets behind the wheel of a vehicle he will be (dangerous), absolutely. He's already proven that," said Susan MacAskill of MADD.

Last week, Cooper, who has been deemed a high-risk offender, pleaded guilty to breaching conditions after he walked into a liquor store in Halifax on Jan. 28, saying that his brain damage had made him confused and he didn't know where he was going.

If Cooper keeps breaching his multiple conditions, MacAskill said the only alterna-



Michael Gerard Cooper leaves provincial court in Halifax on March 6. MIKE DEMBECK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

tive might be to go back to jail for an extended period.

"If you violate the terms of your probation, then there's consequences for that," she said.

MacAskill said it's important Cooper's lifelong driving ban is strictly enforced, and added this is a unique case because Cooper has said he would

drink again if given the chance, and shows no sign of remorse.

It's important to keep Cooper's case in the public eye because "two very important people" lost their lives, and the parents of Smits and MacLean are concerned with having the "right thing" done now, MacAskill said.

A fitness report stated Coop-

er is criminally responsible for his actions but has significant brain damage as a result of the collision, making it difficult for him to live independently.

"But he's responsible for those injuries to himself; he's not a victim of circumstances," MacAskill said. "Because of decisions he made, this is the outcome for him."

Minister sorry for tossing report on Aboriginals



Justice Minister Peter MacKay.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Central Nova MP and Justice Minister Peter MacKay has apologized for the way he handled the tabling of many documents relating to missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

Last week in the House of Commons, he asked for unanimous consent to table the documents, and dropped them in front of his desk

before bringing them to another Member of Parliament.

"It was inappropriate on my part, and I let my passion overtake my compassion on this important issue," he said in a status on his official Facebook page.

He explained the reasoning behind his actions, stating that "taunts" from an

opposition member led him to react out of frustration. He said he only had English copies when he committed to tabling them, not bilingual as required.

He also explained that contrary to what some have said, he never threw the parliamentary report Invisible Women: A Call to Action on the floor, and this report

hadn't been tabled at the time.

"This was certainly not intended as a show of disrespect to Aboriginal people or to anyone else. It was a temporary loss of composure brought on in the heat of the moment. And one which I regret and will endeavour never to repeat."

NEW GLASGOW NEWS

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Medical policy. Mounties exonerated after death of unconscious prisoner

The RCMP say two Mounties in Nova Scotia did not breach the department's policy in the arrest of a man who stopped breathing in a jail cell and later died.

Sgt. Al LeBlanc says officers are required to consult with medical personnel when someone they've placed in cells is unconscious but says the two Mounties involved in the arrest in Liverpool believed the assessment done at the scene by paramedics satisfied that policy.

The Serious Incident Response Team said the man was arrested July 8 after he was found lying in a road, but paramedics at the scene determined there was no reason to take him to hospital.

It said he was arrested for being intoxicated in public.

The team said the man

However ...

The province's police watchdog said Tuesday the officers may have failed to follow policy by not seeking further medical attention.

stopped breathing about an hour after arriving at the RCMP detachment and was pronounced dead in hospital about 40 minutes later.

Its investigation determined the man had overdosed on morphine and alcohol in an effort to commit suicide.

It said there were no grounds to lay criminal charges, adding the medical examiner could not say whether earlier medical attention would have saved the man's life. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

MV Miner. Province seeks proposals to haul off hazardous shipwreck

A request for proposals has been issued by the Nova Scotia government to remove the wreck of the MV Miner, which has been stranded in a protected area off Cape Breton for more than two years.

The government is asking companies bidding for the work to submit proposals on how they plan to safely remove the 12,000-tonne ship.

The request notes that the vessel still has contaminants on board, including about 6,000 kilograms of asbestos-containing materials.

The bulk carrier became stranded in September 2011 off the coast of Scatarie Island, a provincially protected wilderness area, after a line snapped in rough seas while it was being towed to a scrapyard in Turkey.

Torquil MacLean

Englishtown ferry to undergo two months of repairs

The Englishtown ferry in Nova Scotia will be taken out of service this spring for about two months for maintenance.

The province's Transportation Department says the Torquil MacLean will have

its hull strengthened and its engine and generator replaced.

Transportation Minister Geoff MacLellan says the ice and current conditions of St. Ann's Harbour in Cape Breton have taken their toll on the ferry and that the work will extend its life.

The tender for the work was awarded to Acon Atlantic Industrial in Pictou with a bid of \$776,000.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Renovations under way to keep Irving shipshape

Workers help assemble steel beams for part of the Irving Shipyard renovations on Wednesday. The extensive renovations at the Halifax shipyard are for a \$25-billion national shipbuilding contract. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**

Half of Nova Scotians got flu shot, poll says

Highest in Atlantic Canada. Official points to H1N1 scare, new pharmacist powers

MELISSA HEALD
For Metro



Fifty-two per cent of Nova Scotians reported getting the flu shot in the last six months. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE**

A new poll shows about half of Nova Scotians got a flu shot in the past six months, which comes as no surprise to the province's deputy chief medical officer of health.

Dr. Frank Atherton said Wednesday that more vaccines have been issued this year than in previous ones.

The poll released Wednesday by Halifax-based Corpor-

ate Research Associates Inc. found 43 per cent of Atlantic Canadians have received a flu shot since the fall.

Across the provinces, 52 per cent of Nova Scotians reported getting the flu shot, followed by Prince Edward Island (42 per cent), New Brunswick (39 per cent) and Newfoundland and Labrador

(33 per cent).

Atherton said giving pharmacies the ability to administer the flu vaccine has allowed more people to access it.

"They've done a fantastic job of vaccinating people," Atherton said. "They have been very popular."

Atherton also pointed to the media attention around this year's main flu strain, the H1N1, as a factor.

"People mentally associated (H1N1) with the flu pandemic in 2009," he said.

Atherton said it has been a relatively normal flu season across Canada, but people still got worried and got the shot.

Demographically, the CRA survey found women were more likely than men to get one, as well as those aged 55

Battle plans

With the flu season starting to wind down, Dr. Frank Atherton said they are already starting to plan for next season and are close to ordering next year's batch of vaccines.

years or older.

According to Statistics Canada, about one-third of Canadians receive the flu shot each year.

The CRA survey was conducted from Feb. 6 to March 2. The results are based on a telephone sample of 1,502 adult Atlantic Canadians with an overall margin of error of 2.5 percentage points.

Flash-freeze warning issued for Halifax

A flash-freeze warning is in effect for the Halifax area and much of Nova Scotia, as temperatures are expected to drop to well below zero on Thursday, creating "potentially hazardous conditions."

Environment Canada

issued a special weather alert Wednesday, warning HRM residents of a significant rainfall of between 30 to 50 millimetres on Wednesday night into Thursday.

The water on the roads is expected to quickly freeze

later in the day on Thursday when a "cold northerly flow" passes over the area.

A low-pressure system from New England was expected to push the precipitation into the Maritimes on Wednesday night.

According to Environment Canada, strong southeast winds are expected, with gusts of up to 130 kilometres per hour from Margaree Harbour to Bay St. Lawrence overnight into Thursday morning.

METRO

Symphony's got lots of pop

2014-15. From David Myles to Michael Jackson, the highlights are aplenty this upcoming season

KAYLYNN
PAYNTER
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When it comes to performing with Symphony Nova Scotia, David Myles can happily refer to himself as a veteran.

The Halifax singer-songwriter performed with the province's symphony for the first time since 2010 on Wednesday.

Primed for another stint in 2014-15, Myles says it's the infectious enchantment of the symphony that brings him back.

"It's one thing when you write songs solo by yourself on your guitar, (but) it's amazing to see them come alive with other orchestrations," Myles said during Wednesday's 2014-15 season preview launch at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium.

Myles will be part of the Maritime Fusion series presented by the symphony. The series aims to combine some of today's popular artists with spectacular orchestral arrangements.

"It feels like a real collaboration not only with the orchestra but particularly with the arrangement," said Myles, a Juno Award-win-



Symphony Nova Scotia clarinetist Dominic Desautels performs a section of Mozart's Clarinet Concerto during the 2014-15 season launch at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

ning artist. "It's an amazing thing to see as a performer."

Cape Breton's Natalie MacMaster and Halifax's Jill Barber will also be featured in Maritime Fusion.

This season the symphony is also set to bring back its popular tribute concert. Being honoured this year is Michael Jackson.

Conductor Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser will be joined by the Jeans 'n Clas-

sics band and vocalist Gavin Hope to perform some of Jackson's famous hits, including Thriller and Billie Jean.

"We've done Queen, ABBA, the Eagles, Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin," said symphony conductor Martin MacDonald. "This year we take on the King of Pop."

Tickets for the 2014-15 season are now on sale at the Rebecca Cohn box office.

Highlights of the 2014-15 Symphony Nova Scotia season:

- Natalie MacMaster: Oct. 3 and 4
- A Merry Cable Christmas: Nov. 27 and 28
- Tafelmusik: Galileo Project: Nov. 30
- The Music of Michael Jackson: Jan. 16 and 17
- David Myles: Feb. 6 and 7
- Music of the Oscars: Feb. 20 and 22
- Jill Barber: March 13



Michael Jackson GETTY IMAGES FILE

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Lost plane. Satellite images show suspected debris

Satellite images on a Chinese government website show suspected debris from the missing Malaysia Airlines jetliner floating off the southern tip of Vietnam, China's Xinhua News Agency reported Wednesday.

The revelation could provide searchers with a focus that has eluded them since the plane disappeared with 239 people aboard early Saturday.

The report said the images from around 11 a.m. on Sunday appear to show "three suspected floating objects" of varying sizes, the largest about 24 metres by 22 metres.

The report includes coordinates of a location in the sea off the southern tip of Vietnam and east of Malaysia. The images originally were posted on a national defence technology website.

No other governments have confirmed the Xinhua report, which did not say when Chinese officials became aware of the images and associated them with the missing plane.

The search for the plane, which left Kuala Lumpur for Beijing before disappearing early Saturday, has encompassed 92,600 square kilometres of Southeast Asia and on Wednesday expanded toward India.

It was also revealed Wednesday that the last message from the cockpit of the missing flight was routine: "All right, good night" was the sign-off transmitted to air traffic controllers five days ago.

Then the Boeing 777 vanished as it cruised over the South China Sea toward Vietnam, and nothing has been seen or heard of the jetliner since. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



The Indonesian National Search and Rescue Agency performs a search for the missing Malaysia Airlines plane off Sumatra Island on Wednesday.
HERI JUANDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Explosion levels two buildings in New York



New York firefighters respond to a five-alarm fire and building collapse in the Harlem neighbourhood of New York City on Wednesday. Reports of an explosion were heard before the collapse of two multiple-dwelling buildings that left at least three dead and many injured. ANDREW BURTON/GETTY IMAGES

Hell up in Harlem.

At least three dead, many others injured after gas leak triggers massive blast

Three people have died after a gas leak caused an explosion Wednesday morning, collapsing two Manhattan buildings, officials said. More than 60 people were injured and at least nine individuals are still missing.

Hunter College identified one of the people killed in the blast as Griselde Camacho, a security officer who worked at the Silberman School of Social Work building. Hunter, in a statement on its website, said Camacho, 45, had worked for the college since 2008.

Another of the people who died was Carmen Tanco, 67, a dental hygienist. Her cousin News 12 cameraman Angel Vargas said when she didn't show up for work Wednesday the family started a frantic search.

The identity of the third victim wasn't immediately disclosed.

Quoted

"I thought it was a bomb. It sounded like a bomb. I immediately thought of 9/11. We just saw people running, running, running. It was just a scene from 9/11."

Sandra Suro, who lives nearby on 115th Street and Madison Avenue

Mayor Bill de Blasio arrived at the scene in the early afternoon and thanked the first responders, describing it as an incredibly fast response while cautioning that the situation was still developing.

"This is a tragedy of the worst kind because we had no indication so that we could save people," de Blasio said.

New York City fire Commissioner Sal Cassano told reporters that the building was in a "precarious position," and firefighters would concentrate on extinguishing the blaze before removing debris to make sure no other people were under the rubble.

METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK, WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nearby residents react

'It blew me out of my bed'

Nearby residents were literally shaken up by the explosion and building collapse that rocked Harlem Wednesday morning, and they described the scene to Metro.

"It blew me out of my bed," said Jay Virgo, 30, who lives in a building across the street. Virgo said she saw four or five people lying on the ground outside looking "lifeless."

Joseph Thomas said, "It took out the windows and there was stuff flying around in the air. It shook the whole building like a bomb."

Reinaldo Rosario, 48, was waiting to hear about his girlfriend's brother, who lived in the building that collapsed.

"I'm shaking," he said. "(The explosion) was loud. I thought it was our building because the building shook."

Andrew Padilla, 24, is a lifelong East Harlem



A member of the NYPD gestures as emergency personnel respond. ANDREW BURTON/GETTY IMAGES

resident and an independent journalist and filmmaker in the neighborhood. He told Metro, "I heard the explosion. I was a half-mile away and the building began to shake and I smelled smoke. I'm born and raised here so I wanted to figure out what happened."

Even Molley Mills, 45, said she looked outside and saw smoke billowing in the air.

"The helicopters turned up and sirens were going everywhere — it was just crazy," she said. **ANDREA PARK/METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK**

Hitting home

New Yorkers hear echoes of Sept. 11 in Harlem blast



JESSICA SMITH CROSS
Metro in Toronto

Since a pair of apartment buildings exploded in East Harlem Wednesday morning, everyone Metro New York reporter Anna Sanders has talked to has said it's brought up a lot of their fears related to Sept. 11, 2001.

Sanders said the explosion wasn't related to terrorism, but before people knew that, there was chaos in the area. "People were running, crying," she said. "There was smoke everywhere and no one knew what was happening."

"As you can imagine, any time this happens in New York City, people think back to 9/11," she said. "At least two people's lives were lost and that's tragic in and of itself. This isn't the scale of 9/11, but it obviously hits home in the city because of Sept. 11."

Sanders arrived at the site about an hour-and-a-half after the explosion on Wednesday morning, after making calls to find out what had happened.

"I was about a block away," she said. "I saw a lot of smoke. It was very chaotic. There were a lot of first responders trying to battle the fire still."

Sanders described the neighbourhood where the buildings exploded — East Harlem, or Spanish Harlem — as a "classic New York neighbourhood" that's not rich, but is a nice place where local residents tend to have ties to the community.

Independent Quebec will keep using loonie: Marois



Quebec Premier Pauline Marois, left, listens to treasury board chair Stéphane Bédard, Wednesday in Quebec City. CLEMENT ALLARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Currency discussion hypothetical for now. Recent polls suggest support for sovereignty in the province barely reaches 40 per cent

An independent Quebec would keep using the Canadian dollar and ask for a seat at the Bank of Canada, Parti Québécois Leader Pauline Marois said Wednesday.

Marois told reporters at a campaign stop that Canada would benefit from having a sovereign Quebec maintain its ties to the loonie and the central bank.

However, the leader of the province's independence movement acknowledged there would be no guarantees on how much influence a Quebec country would have with the Bank of Canada.

"We could wish to have a

seat at the Bank of Canada, but we accept the fact it is the bank's monetary policy that would apply," Marois said as she campaigned for the April 7 election.

Marois's remarks reiterated the PQ's long-held position that Quebec would continue to use the Canadian currency if it secedes. She pointed out that European countries share the euro even though they are independent.

Marois tried to make the case for an independent Quebec to remain on the central bank's governing council, arguing it would benefit Canada because her province has a large economy.

"We have an economy that is a rich one," said Marois.

"We have a lot of consumers. We have a lot of business organizations on our territory and I think it is important to have a place at this level (the Bank of Canada). But if it is not the case, we will see."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto's mayoral race. Olivia Chow resigns as MP in bid to unseat Ford

Olivia Chow resigned her seat in Parliament Wednesday to launch her bid to replace Rob Ford as mayor of the country's largest city, filing her nomination papers hours after her resignation.

She is expected to hold her campaign kickoff Thursday in the inner city neighbourhood of St. James Town, where she grew up. Her campaign is expected to stress her personal story, growing up in Toronto as the daughter of struggling immigrant parents.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Olivia Chow

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It's a girl, a girl and a girl

Triple fun for Saskatoon parents

The odds say there's about a million-to-one chance of it happening. Teri-Lynn and Andrew Pocha of Saskatoon have become the shocked but proud parents of identical triplet girls.

Aubrey, Madeline and Sophie came into the world Monday at Saskatoon's Royal University Hospital. All are around four pounds.

The babies have blue eyes and light-brown hair, and the parents say they will paint their toenails different colours to tell them apart. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NEW EPISODE

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Citytv.com ROGERS



The army takes down the Canadian flag for the last time in Afghanistan on Wednesday, bringing an end to 12 years of military involvement in a campaign that cost the lives of 158 soldiers. MURRAY BREWSTER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

12 years a mission: Kabul's Maple Leaf down for good

Bound for home.

Troops wrap up Afghan duty, Canada's longest-ever campaign

As the Canadian flag inched its way down the pole Wednesday at NATO headquarters in Kabul, Master Cpl. Jordan Taylor didn't necessarily see the red and white Maple Leaf.

The faces of friends who didn't come home were before his eyes.

Taylor is a fresh-faced kid from Regina, and anyone looking at him would hardly be able to guess he's a veteran of a unit that saw some of the fiercest fighting during the five-year combat mission in Kandahar.

"I've had some good friends who've lost their lives here," said Taylor, who helped haul down the flag on Canada's longest-ever military mission.

"I see their faces all the time; always remember them. So, that's what I was reflecting on," said Taylor, who helped haul down the flag on Canada's longest-ever military mission.

The wounds this country has inflicted were on quiet, subtle display at the understated ceremony before the

headquarters building.

Sprinkled through a crowd of three dozen Canadians who stood at attention were troops who'd returned to Afghanistan three, four, even five times in the dozen of years the army has been involved in trying to stabilize the fractured nation.

The finality of what took place was only underscored as the last handful of training troops, kitted out in full combat gear, trudged through a soccer field adjacent to the headquarters to board American helicopters for a trip to a holding camp before boarding flights out of the country.

The last pair of Canadian boots to step off the grounds of the headquarters and on to the ramp belonged to Col. Ivy Miezitis, who, according to officers watching the departure, seemed to dawdle in hopes of snagging the historical footnote.

During the understated ceremony, dignitaries — Canadian and allied alike — praised the country's involvement and sacrifices.

The war cost the lives of 158 soldiers, one diplomat, one journalist and two civilian contractors.

"We can wish that the families of the fallen do not lament their fate, but we know that this is not the case. The

only small comfort comes from the knowledge that the sacrifices of lost loved ones has been worthwhile, that they made a difference, and that their grief is shared by a grateful nation," said Canada's ambassador to Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons.

Canadian commandos, hunting al-Qaida, were the first troops to hit the ground in late 2001 and they were followed by as many as 40,000 more rotating through different campaigns, including the five-year combat mission in Kandahar.

British Lt.-Gen. John Lorimer, the deputy commander of NATO in Afghanistan, said the Canadians "repeatedly proved their courage and capability" alongside coalition and Afghan troops, especially in Kandahar "where you not only fought hard, but you fought smart."

Calling it the end of a significant era, Lorimer said he viewed the departure of the Canadians with "mixed emotions" given the shared experiences of the last 12 years.

"I am sad to see you return home, yet grateful for opportunity to have served alongside such great Canadian leaders along the way," he said.

The country's top military commander, Gen. Tom Law-

son, spoke about how the government will rally around its veterans now that they're home.

"We will gather around and continue to support those who suffer from wounds both seen and unseen," Lawson said in a reference to the suicide crisis that has gripped the military since last fall.

The Defence Department has acknowledged that as many as 10 soldiers — possibly more — have taken their own lives since November.

Officials have also faced repeated questions about promises to hire more military mental health staff, to deal with an expected wave of post-traumatic stress cases, have gone unfulfilled.

The last Canadian commander, Maj.-Gen. Dean Milner, said the mission taking place over the last three years has been invaluable preparation for the Afghan army, but the progress made is not irreversible and the West needs to continue nurturing both military and civilian institutions.

Ambassador Lyons said Canada will remain engaged in Afghanistan and the focus will be on helping build the ruined nation's economy, particularly in the resource sector.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

At home. Widespread ambivalence on Afghan mission's legacy: Poll

Some people searched their souls while the politicians offered glowing tributes and flags flew at half-staff.

Meanwhile, one survey suggested two-thirds of Canadians said it was too soon to call the decade-plus military involvement a success or failure, while only 58 per cent realized that the Canadian Forces actually had, until Wednesday, a continuing military mission there.

There was much ambivalence and some outright avoidance in Canada on Wednesday as the last 100 Canadian Forces soldiers on duty in Afghanistan saw their mission formally come to an end.

The Canadian Press Harris-Decima poll released Wednesday showed widespread Canadian ambivalence about the country's military legacy from Afghanistan.

"I'm reminded how impatient we all are. We're always keen to change the channel, and some things take a long time," said John Manley, the former Liberal cabinet minister who chaired the Conservative-led panel on the way forward in Afghanistan at the height of the Canadian bloodshed in 2008.

The poll also found that in the future, 74 per cent

favoured Canada taking part in peacekeeping missions, rather than "military engagement."

Fen Hampson, director of the global security at Waterloo, Ont.'s Centre for International Governance Innovation, said polls like Wednesday's and similar recent ones in the United States reflect the frustration and fatigue of the general public toward the unresolved Afghanistan war and the continuing corruption of the government of Hamid Karzai.

"The poll seems to suggest it's the mission Canadians want to forget," he said.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper released a written statement that lauded the record number of 40,000 Canadian troops that served in Afghanistan over the years, including those who paid "the ultimate price."

Manley, who has travelled to Afghanistan in various capacities, says he still sees hope for Afghanistan's future, despite the rampant instability and corruption that still exists.

"Personally, I think three million girls going to school is a game changer. Even in that culture, you're not going to put those women back to where they were in 2001."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Idaho hockey fans

Beer cups prompt suit against arena

A handful of Idaho hockey fans sued a Boise arena on Tuesday, saying they were duped into thinking a \$7 beer contains more brew than a \$4 beer.

The lawsuit says CenturyLink Arena, home of the Idaho Steelheads hockey team, defrauded customers by charging \$3 more for a tall, narrow cup advertised as a "large" that actually holds the same amount of beer as the shorter, wider cup described as a "small."

Arena spokesman Mike Campbell said he hadn't yet seen the lawsuit and can't comment.

Four fans filed the suit Tuesday in Boise's 4th District Court against Block 22 LLC, which does business as CenturyLink Arena.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quebec inquiry

Investigator: Mafia took profit cuts from developers

The Mafia usually didn't invest a dime in construction and real-estate deals, but still took a profit when the projects were finished, Quebec's corruption inquiry heard Wednesday.

The Charbonneau Commission is tackling the reach and role of the Mob in major real-estate deals and the influential role played by late Mafia boss Vito Rizzuto in at least one such project.

Investigator Eric Vecchio said Rizzuto and other mobsters were never front-line players with a financial stake. Instead, they acted as consultants and deal-brokers while they picked up a piece of the profits.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada looks to copy Aussie domestic brand

Made in Canada.

A committee will be struck to make recommendations about branding for Canada

From those ubiquitous UGG boots to kayaks and cherries, a little green logo featuring a kangaroo has told Australian consumers what's been made or grown by their country for nearly 30 years.

Now the Canadian government is looking to the Australian Made campaign as a model for a domestic branding exercise here. This year's federal budget prom-

'Australian Made'

"By and large our standards are high, our healthy, clean, green environment is very desirable, particularly into Asia."

Australian Made CEO Ian Harrison

ised a private-sector steering committee would be struck to make recommendations about a formal Made in Canada system.

The committee is expected to number around six people, composed of marketing experts and figures from various major industries, says a government source. Although the government is kick-start-

ing the idea, the source said the campaign would ultimately be funded within the private sector.

The Competition Bureau already oversees country-of-origin rules that prohibit Canadian manufacturers or producers from making false claims about their products. An item that claims to be "Made in Canada" must have had its last transformation in Canada, and 51 per cent of the production costs incurred here. A "Product of Canada" means 98 per cent of the costs of producing the good happened in Canada.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty recently travelled to Australia to talk to the people running their branding campaign. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



One more wallop of snow to make us happy

A woman shields herself from blowing snow on Clifton Hill in Niagara Falls, Ont. during a snow storm Wednesday. Police were reporting numerous collisions as much of southern Ontario endured a wintry wallop. Environment Canada says the snow is the result of a low pressure system from Indiana tracking south of the Lower Great Lakes. **AARON LYNETT/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Jules Verne? From deep underground, a Brazilian diamond tells us a story

Jules Verne was on to something.

In his classic 1864 adventure story *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*, the French novelist imagined a vast ocean deep within the planet's bowels. University of Alberta scientists have found the first direct evidence that he wasn't far off.

"The original idea is a Jules Verne idea, isn't it?" laughs geologist Graham Pearson. "One hundred years later it turns out to be pretty much true — except you can't really stand around and see the water."

In a paper published in the journal *Nature*, Pearson and his co-authors describe how a Brazilian diamond originating at least 400 kilometres down has yielded the only surface sample ever found of a deep-Earth mineral and provides the first concrete proof for a long-held theory about how the planet works.

"We found it by accident," Pearson says. "It was really a bit of blue-sky research."

Pearson's lab studies diamonds. One of its scientists was trying to date a stone

Ringwoodite

Researchers have long suggested that minerals such as ringwoodite have the ability to store water molecules locked within their crystal structure. Pearson and his colleagues, for the first time ever, had a chance to look inside an actual sample.

- Sure enough, their tiny chip of ringwoodite was about one per cent water by weight.

from a region of Brazil where the gems are known to have originated in a so-called transition zone between the Earth's upper and lower mantle, between 400 and 600 kilometres deep.

The researcher found a mineral inside the diamond, but couldn't identify it. He was about to move on when one of his colleagues walked in and realized it was ringwoodite. "That was a eureka moment." Ringwoodite is only stable at pressures deep underground. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Web's creator

Bill of rights sought for Web

The British inventor of the World Wide Web wants a digital bill of rights to protect Internet users from surveillance. Speaking on the 25th anniversary of his creation, Tim Berners-Lee says he hopes to spark a global conversation about the need to defend principles that have made the Web successful.

He told the *Guardian* newspaper that the Web was under increasing attack by governments and corporate interests. He said the system needed an online Magna Carta, or foundation of rules, to protect its openness and neutrality.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Guardian vs. the prince

Paper wins battle on Charles letters

Britain's *Guardian* won a court battle Wednesday in its efforts to disclose letters by Prince Charles — a decision the newspaper argues could shed light on whether he meddled in politics. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Top editor at Russian online news site axed

Galina Timchenko.

Fired by the site's billionaire owner after official complaints over Ukraine coverage

The owner of a leading independent Russian news website has fired its chief editor following official complaints over the outlet's coverage of Ukraine.

Lenta.ru says Alexander Mamut, who also owns several other media outlets, dismissed Galina Timchenko on Wednesday. She will be replaced by the former editor of a staunchly pro-Kremlin website. The Lenta.ru editorial team said in a statement

that Timchenko's removal marked a further decline in media freedom. "The firing of an independent chief editor and the appointment of a malleable person — this is a violation of the law on mass media, which rules out any censorship," said a statement by workers. The website had received a warning from a state communications regulator over an interview with a prominent radical Ukrainian nationalist Andriy Tarasenko, who had engaged in the anti-government protests that sent Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych fleeing to Russia last month.

The regulator said the website also had included a link to earlier comments by Dmytro Yarosh, a national-

ist leader who is wanted in Russia on charges of instigating terrorism over recent alleged calls for Chechen insurgents to mount attacks against Russia.

The regulator said the website breached a law banning dissemination of extremist material.

Lenta.ru is the most read online news outlet in Russia, attracting 10 million hits daily, according to figures cited by Internet and technology news website TheRundet.com.

Mamut, a metals and banking billionaire who also owns the British bookstore chain Waterstones, oversaw an online media merger in 2013 that gave him control over several popular news outlets, including Lenta.ru.

Ukraine coverage

The website had received a warning from a state communications regulator over an interview with radical Ukrainian nationalist Andriy Tarasenko, who had engaged in anti-government protests.

Lenta.ru has, since its creation in 1999, earned a reputation as a vibrant news outlet in a landscape largely dominated by media either directly controlled by the state or notable for their adherence to the official Russian line, without questioning.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brutal storm hits Kashmir

Unusually heavy snowfall has unleashed avalanches and collapsed homes in the Himalayan region of Kashmir, killing at least 14 people on both sides of the de-facto border between India and Pakistan, officials said.

Ten died in the Indian-controlled portion of the territory, police said, while Pakistan's military reported another four dead in an avalanche on that side of the border.

On the Indian side, dozens were evacuated from high-risk areas Wednesday, after avalanches killed two Indian army soldiers camped in the

Kargil region and another three Nepalese labourers working near the heavily militarized Line of Control.

Another five people were killed when dozens of homes crumpled under the weight of snow in the southern Kulgam and Shopian areas on the Indian-controlled side, police officer Imtiyaz Hussain said.

Pakistan's military said an avalanche killed four soldiers late Tuesday near the northern district of Astore.

The last similar late-season snowfall was in 2007, also in March.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Marching for Berkin Elvan

A demonstrator strikes a defiant pose in Istanbul, Turkey, Wednesday as riot police use water cannons and tear gas to disperse thousands of people marching for Berkin Elvan, a Turkish teenager who died after remaining in a coma since being hit in the head by a tear gas canister fired during summer protests in Turkey.

EMRAH GUREL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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TOP SIX @ 6

Weeknights at 6 KB counts down the HOTTEST songs of the day

- 6 Kid Ink Show Me
- 5 Katy Perry ft Juicy J Dark Horse
- 4 Bastille Pompeii
- 3 Beyonce ft Jay Z Drunk In Love
- 2 Jason Denaro Talk Dirty
- 1 Pharrell Williams Happy

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Hot housing market is not overheated, says expert

Report. Economist goes against the grain claiming current house prices are fairly valued, or even undervalued

A new report into Canada's hot housing market is trying to calm fears of a coming collapse in prices, saying the biggest threat to home valuations may be government meddling with mortgage rules.

The paper by economist Will Dunning, who runs a real-estate market research firm in Toronto, says Canadians have been mostly prudent investors in housing and that the market can absorb either higher prices or a one per cent hike in interest rates.

Rather than being overvalued, house prices in Canada are fairly valued and may even

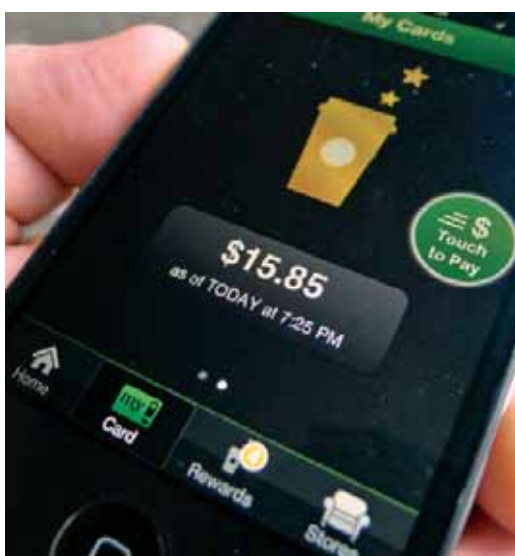
Begs to differ

- The Bank of Canada and our government have warned about an overheated housing market for several years, arguing that once interest rates start rising, the roof will cave in for some home buyers.
- The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development has also pointed to Canada as having the world's most overvalued housing market.

be undervalued, he says.

The paper was released the same day a new Teranet-National Bank composite price index rose to a new all-time high, showing home prices rose 0.3 per cent in February.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The tipping point on tips?

A Starbucks payment app is shown on a smartphone. The coffee chain will soon let customers leave tips with its mobile-payment app. The mobile tipping option will be available on its updated app for iPhones starting March 19. The rollout comes as the company's app has surged in popularity, with roughly one out of every 10 purchases now made with a mobile device. After paying with the app, Starbucks says customers will be able to leave a tip of 50 cents US, \$1 US or \$2 US any time within two hours of the transaction. The tipping option will only be available at the 7,000 of the roughly 11,000 Starbucks locations in the U.S. that are owned by the company.

GRAEME ROY/THE CANADIAN PRESS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute



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OIL
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GOLD
\$1,370.50 (+\$23.80)

Natural gas: \$4.49 US (-\$0.11)
Dow Jones: 16,340.08 (-11.17)

Inquiry

FTC puts Herbalife on notice in U.S.

Herbalife is facing an inquiry from the Federal Trade Commission in the U.S.

The nutrition and supplement company said Wednesday that it received the civil investigative demand from the FTC on Wednesday. A representative from the FTC was not immediately available to comment.

Herbalife says it welcomes the inquiry, noting a "tremendous amount of misinformation in the marketplace" about its business. The company says it believes it is in compliance with all laws and regulators and plans to co-operate fully.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FOR MORE ON HERBALIFE'S CONTROVERSIAL BUSINESS MODEL, READ "HEALTH PRODUCTS COMPANY OR PYRAMID SCHEME?" ON METRONEWS.CA



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BACHELORHOOD, DEFINED

What does it mean to be a bachelor?

I've always considered myself a bachelor, from the tip of my cowlick to the bottom of my mismatched socks. Yet I've had a girlfriend for months now.

Must I turn in my bachelor's card? Am I something else now?

I refuse to believe that. To me, bachelorhood is so much more than whether I'm dating. What would that mean for my lack of cooking, my avoidance of cleaning my apartment, my inability to plan?

I'm not just the person I date; I'm all the things I don't do, too.

Being a bachelor is a state of mind. Some might argue that state of mind is "lazy jackass," but you can be a very nice bachelor, no matter what TV's *The Bachelor* might teach us.

It's about being comfortable with who we are. It's about accepting that we will always screw up the laundry, the date, the meal. Because if we didn't accept it with a grin, we'd go mad.

While ruminating on this definition of bachelor, it occurred to me that there are many bachelorhood terms and slang that



HE SAYS
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

help define the world we live in. I then created a list of definitions so that you might understand me and my people.

Earning Your Bachelor's Degree: A Bachelorhood Glossary

Bache-lor: Superhero known for his Blu-ray vision, imperviousness to mould, and ability to read entire Calvin and Hobbes collections during a single toilet sitting.

Bachelor-hood: A community within a city that has curbside garbage comprised of at least 90 per cent pizza boxes.

Bachelor party:

1) Four or more bachelors on one couch playing Xbox.

2) A party for an engaged man whose friends attempt to show him the worst, most abusive time possible, often in preparation for what his marriage will be like.

Bachelor shower:

1) Applying deodorant or cologne in lieu of a shower.

2) Taking an actual shower for approximately 40 minutes until the water runs cold and the bathroom is steamier than a Shannon Tweed VHS intro.

Bathroom: Room for building online-dating photo portfolio.
Bed-making: Something done once, usually with an Allen key.

Bedroom: Walk-in hamper.

Carpet: Bache-lor's greatest enemy, absorber of stains and hurler of vicious static electricity.

Confirmed bachelor: Guy you can clearly see is wearing two different socks.

Diet: Only using half the icing on a Toaster Strudel.

Home cooking: Take-out from any restaurant within 500 metres of where you live.

Kitchen: Hallway to garbage can.

Muffin top: The laundry at the top of the hamper that pours out of the top and gets washed repeatedly, as opposed to the Muffin stem of clothes that sits at the bottom of the hamper for all eternity.

Snow (also 'base' or 'wacky dust'): Street slang for Carnation Instant Breakfast Powder Drink Mix.

Spring cleaning: Taking the Slinky into the shower.

And that's my small window into the world of the bachelor, whether he's single or not. Speaking of which: If you see my girlfriend, tell her I've been thinking about her while I work on my definition.

ZOOM

Getting to the heart of it



ANDERS PERSSON/WEELCOME IMAGES

Anatomical image scan wins top award

A striking image of a mechanical heart pump inside the patient's chest has been named as the overall winner of the Wellcome Image Awards 2014, a leading competition for medical photography. The picture was captured by Anders Persson, a pioneer in using colour 3D images from scans in clinical practice. **METRO**

Judge's corner

"The juxtaposition of delicate human anatomy with the robust mechanical plumbing parts is dramatic, and the image is rendered so vividly in 3D that it appears to jump out at the viewer."

BBC medical correspondent
Fergus Walsh

DIY it

- The Swedish scientist used a new scan type known as dual energy computed tomography (DECT) angiography: A patient is scanned with two sources of X-rays at different energies.

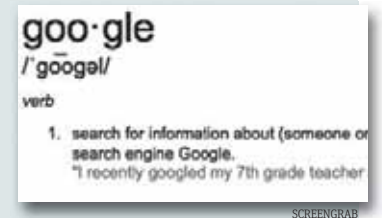
Clickbait



IRENE KUAN
Metro Online

The Internet turned 25 this week, and we can thank its inventions for the existence of certain words we use daily.

Here is a list of the best words the Internet has given humankind.



SCREENGRAB

Avatar

In computing terms, an avatar is a graphical representation of a user's alter ego, usually used in virtual world games or Internet forums.

Trolling

This is Internet slang to describe a person who tries to upset people online, by posting inflammatory or off-topic messages on forums or websites to deliberately provoke other web readers' emotions.

Meme

In Internet talk, a meme is something that has been built upon or manipulated that spreads from person to person online. Some memes have gone viral on sites like Reddit, 4Chan and Facebook.

Hashtag

A hashtag is a word or phrase prefixed with a hash symbol (#). It is often used for social media or microblogging sites like Twitter and Instagram.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: The web turned 25 March 12. It allows us to binge watch, over share and shop easily. But how has it made our lives more difficult?

@AJokeDare: I always feel like somebody's watching me

@Zaedum: it makes us realise much our everyday lives suck compared to most. #justsaying #imsobering



@deefontein: Yes, the paradox of choice at it's finest. IE. Spending hours scrolling Netflix choices & watching O.

@speirs: Pre-Web, I'd mend a wound. Now, I consult Intrnet for med advice, but become overwhelmed, so let it fester & wait for something 2fall off

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

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You Bette it's gonna be a fun time

'A natural fit.'

MacDonald brings her cast of characters back to the Symphony stage



BACKSTAGE PASS
Jenna Conter
halifax@metronews.ca

Bugs Bunny. The Marx Brothers. Think about it. Classical music and comedy just seem to work so well together.

That's been the proven formula that brings together Cape Breton comedienne Bette MacDonald, her cast of characters and Symphony Nova Scotia this Friday and Saturday night at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium.

"It's kind of a natural fit — opposites do attract," said MacDonald. "This is my third or fourth show with the symphony and I've never found it difficult to blend the two. Putting the characters with the symphony is such a 'fish out of water' situation and it's always funny."

MacDonald, a Gemini Award winner, has been

Quoted

"This is my third or fourth show with the symphony and I've never found it difficult to blend the two. Putting the characters with the symphony is such a 'fish out of water' situation and it's always funny."

Bette MacDonald, comedian

Details

- **What.** Bette MacDonald and Symphony Nova Scotia
- **Where.** Rebecca Cohn Auditorium
- **When.** Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
- **Tickets.** symphonynovascotia.ca

making us laugh on TV, radio and stage for over 20 years. Where there are but a handful of go-to characters came once a small crowd of interesting personalities —since whittled down to today's top picks.

Developing characters since the dawn of time, MacDonald shared there has been a great deal of fine-tuning to select and develop her now crowd favorites.

"Earlier on I did a bunch of characters in hopes of finding a few that I would want to do for a long time, to follow them for a while and see where they went."

Best known for her Mary Morrison character, a Cape Bretoner if there ever was one, for her third appearance with the symphony, MacDonald will be joined by Wayne Tomko.

MacDonald refers to the Tomko character as "natural for the symphony show."

"He sees himself as far more sophisticated than he actually is — as I believe he has the soul of the poet."

Another staple in MacDonald's character repertoire is Beulah Claxton, a jazz singer who "still thinks she's on top, though she really isn't." She's also being brought back to life



Bette MacDonald is back in Halifax this weekend for two shows at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. CONTRIBUTED

this weekend. Not wanting to give all the credit to her cast of fictional characters, it's important to point out the many achievements made as Bette.

Most recently MacDonald was nominated for a

Canadian Screen Award in the best performance by an actress in a featured supporting role or guest role in a comedic series category, for her role in the CBC hit TV series Mr. D. She was in the episode titled World Re-

ligions.

"I have so much fun on that show and it has a lot to do with the people I get to work with. Every day is pure fun. We laugh all day long and I just love it," she said.

2 SCENE



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No Bad Words from Jason Bateman

Directorial debut.

Perpetual nice guy actor talks about the good parts of starring in a film he directs



NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

For his directorial debut, Jason Bateman puts some pretty terrible words in his mouth as Guy Trilby, a grown-up spelling bee contestant making life difficult for his tween-aged competitors with some truly withering insults. That coarseness was something Bateman didn't want to shy away from.

"No one needs to see another PG spelling bee movie. We've seen those," he says with a laugh.

"Or another heartwarming tale about an adult befriending a child or vice versa. There's a bunch of great movies that have done that and I didn't want to do another one of those."



Jason Bateman directs and stars in *Bad Words*, which opens next Friday. CONTRIBUTED

Luckily Bateman had an ace in the hole to avoid things getting too dark: himself.

Known more for playing the nice guy, Bateman as an actor has a decent amount of goodwill built up with audiences on which to rely.

"I wasn't afraid about pushing the envelope as far as possible because I knew that I'd be playing the charac-

ter, and I was somewhat confident that I would be able to play him in a way where you would excuse his behaviour," Bateman says.

"Or at least I knew that would be a nice challenge for me. I don't know whether I hit the target, it's not for me to say.

"But I do like that I was increasing my odds of hitting

that narrow target and managing that very specific tone by being able to have a huge presence on camera as well as behind the camera."

Surprisingly though, Jason Bateman the actor was not Jason Bateman the director's first choice for *Bad Words*, but he eventually managed to talk himself into it.

"I went after some pretty

Quoted

"You have no idea how long it takes sometimes for a director and an actor to get on the same page while the whole crew waits before you can roll."

Jason Bateman on the positives of directing yourself in a film.

big actors, some heroes of mine to play the part, and they were either too busy or not interested," he admits.

"Then I thought, maybe I should play the part because it's actually going to end up being a little easier. For better or worse, every single take is going to be exactly the way that I want it.

"You have no idea how long it takes sometimes for a director and an actor to get on the same page while the whole crew waits before you can roll."

But while that lack of debate and discussion with a lead actor saved time and made things easier, wearing both hats did prove logistically challenging in other ways.

"As a director, traditionally you can sit there [at the mon-

itor] and you can know exactly what you're getting as you're getting it. I didn't have that perspective, so I wasn't able to see that," he says.

"We had to adjust our process a little bit where we would rehearse a lot more with my stand-in in there so I could see what the camera was seeing.

"Then once I was satisfied that everybody was doing it the way I thought that it needed to be done, then I went in front of the camera.

"And then after a couple of takes I would go and watch playback. If you watch every take in playback, by definition you've doubled your time in the day, so I couldn't do that. I had to be judicious with that."





Angelina Jolie PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Six kids later, Angelina Jolie is finally taking up cooking

With six kids at home, it might come as a surprise to learn that Angelina Jolie is only now learning how to cook, but there you go. "Angelina took her first cooking class last year. Her lack of cooking abilities was really getting to her, but she's finding cooking has become a great therapeutic exercise," a source tells Radar Online. "Angelina gets a kick out of feeding her kids herself and loves the creative side of it, although she admits she's

not quite at that stage where she's confident enough to go 'off recipe' and experiment. But she's working on getting there." So where does a globe-trotting Oscar winner go for cooking lessons? Why, to Munawar Hosain, a member of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, who has reportedly been giving Jolie regular lessons in preparing Indian dishes at his Beverly Hills home. "Angelina absolutely loves the hands-on instruction," the source says.

Chris Pine to face drunk driving charges in NZ

Chris Pine, known for playing Captain Kirk in the Star Trek movies, has been charged with drunken driving in New Zealand. The 33-year-old American is due to make his first court appearance in the case on Monday, court officials said Wednesday. New Zealand Police said in a statement that a 33-year-old American was charged March 1 with driving

with a blood-alcohol level over the legal limit, which in New Zealand is .08 per cent. Police did not name the man, but said he was stopped during a routine early-morning check near the South Island town of Methven. Pine has been in New Zealand filming the movie Z for Zachariah, which is due for release next year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



A glimpse into Lohan's little black book

MELINDA TAUB

Metro World News in New York

Max George. Heath Ledger. Jamie Dornan. Zac Efron. Justin Timberlake.

All these and more are notches in Lindsay Lohan's bedpost, according to In Touch. Reportedly, Lindsay was hanging out with some friends at the Beverly Hills Hotel on Jan. 30 when she grabbed a pen and started jotting down names — most of whom were very famous and very handsome. "It was her personal conquest list," says a witness. "She was trying to impress her friends with the list and then tossed it aside."

Apparently, in between stints in jail and rehab, Lindsay found plenty of

time for amour. The list, which contains at least 36 names, also includes such celebs as J. Phoenix (Joaquin, is that you?), Lukas Haas, Evan Peters, Wilmer Valderrama, Colin Farrell, James Franco, Adam Levine and Garret Hedlund.

I have my doubts about this. Lindsay has mostly been a mess these last few years; it doesn't seem likely that she could have kept these high-status hookups this quiet for this long. (You don't think she would have drunkenly screamed "I hit that" whenever a Justin Timberlake song came on in the club? Because I would have.)

I hope it's true, though, because first of all you go, girl; second of all, almost half the list is blurred out, which suggests there are even bigger, more scandalous hookups on there that we have yet to learn about.



Naomi Campbell

Done with the diva life? Naomi Campbell wants to be a mom

Naomi Campbell is ready to be a mom, and she doesn't mind going it alone. "I do want to have children, whether I have a man or not. I will have it on my own," the supermodel told designer Diane von Furstenberg during a SiriusXM Radio chat recently. Camp-

bell, who broke up with billionaire Vladimir Doronin nearly a year ago, also revealed she was infertile until very recently. "I was not able to have children up until March," she said. "Now it's in God's hands. I would love to have a family."

Twitter



@bobsaget

Good people are hard to come on.



@WhitneyCummings

Watching wedding dances on YouTube for three hours is healthy right?



@KellyOsbourne

On my THIRD laser tattoo removal surgery!!

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She's got unblurred ambition

You know she wants this. Model and actress Emily Ratajkowski chats about balancing her silver screen acting ambitions with putting money in the bank

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News

You'll know Emily Ratajkowski as the bodacious beauty from Robin Thicke's *Blurred Lines* video. She's all nubile flirtation — no top, nude panties, white sneakers and rouged lips temptingly parted — meets wide-eyed pseudo-innocence, playfully skipping and bouncing to the beat.

We watched, gyrated and leered. It was the music world's *Fifty Shades of Grey*, dividing opinion over its social acceptability: ban it versus give me more. The polarization of opinion is irrelevant; although we all had something to say on the subject, it brought one girl originally cast as a back-up dancer to the fore.

That said, the line between Ratajkowski's current image as sexpot eye candy is at odds with her "Martin Scorsese" acting ambitions. She intends to blur the boundaries between two incongruous worlds through what she refers to as "balance" between the commercial (read: cash-paying) roles and creative career-progressing endeavors.

She has a clear mission statement, but it's one that could be difficult to implement when you consider that she's a YouTube beauty to the tune of more than 276 million views, and now surely commands considerable buck to boogie. It will depend on the success of her upcoming role in direc-



Don't be fooled by her fawn-like appearance. Behind the big brown eyes and ditty dancing is a girl who, in her words, "is looking to surprise people."

ADAM KATZ SINDING/GETTY IMAGES

Hey, hey, hey!

"For every sexy thing, I want to do a fashion thing. For every modeling job, I want to do a serious acting role."

tor David Fincher's *Gone Girl* as to whether Ratajkowski can escape that lucrative but vapid music video dance sphere.

Initially, the 22-year-old was reluctant to be cast in the video.

The tough and the topless

The model and her family have the final word on the controversial Ratajkowski (pronounced 'rat-a-COW-ski' — the 'j' is silent) phenomenon.

- When asked what her mother, a feminist and English professor, thought of the *Blurred Lines* video, she replies, "She thinks it's beautiful and important for women to embrace their sexuality."
- Ratajkowski describes the word feminist as "testy", saying, "People connect a lot of strange things to that word. In general, I really love women and I want them to be treated equally." She continues: "I think some people have a problem with a model, who's done nude work, using the word feminist but I have no problems with saying it."

It was the video's director who convinced the young model to accept the job, while Thicke, a married man in his mid-30s, took the brunt of the negative barrage for the video's sexist undertones.

Ratajkowski, the current face of fashion retail site Revolve, is keen to avoid being typecast as a gushing airhead despite appearing in the 2014 *Sports Illustrated Swimsuit* Issue.

"I'm definitely not into that swimsuit model vibe. I like the ballet and I like to see female porn films — I'm a little different in that way, I guess," she asserts.

The British-born model is aware that her topless cavorting

could strike discord with Hollywood directors. But as she rightly points out on being cast as Ben Affleck's mistress Andie in *Gone Girl*, due out this October: "When you're working with director David Fincher [*The Social Network*, 2010, and *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*, 2011] people definitely do take you seriously." She adds: "I'm doing *Sports Illustrated* but I'm also appearing in the Spanish fashion magazine *S Moda*. For every sexy thing, I want to do a fashion thing. For every modeling job, I want to do a serious acting role."

Of course, the pigeonholing might well be something that she has to contend with for the meantime. However, it makes sense for her to make the break from being desktop dance star to silver screen sensation in order to certify her as a serious acting talent. "I want to establish myself [in the industry] and there are a few things that'll be announced in the next few months that will balance everything out," she says.

The modeling profession wasn't always receptive to Ratajkowski's plans to break into acting — a dream she's had since childhood.

"I told an agency in New York my goals and they said it was only a select group of girls that have that opportunity," she explains.

The timing of the Fincher film might be fortuitous but it seems doubtful that this is the case of a pretty wallflower seizing her 15 minutes of fame.

For her part, Ratajkowski makes it sound like she's always had a career game plan and it doesn't involve selling out for questionable success. "Throughout my childhood I acted, so it was always something I felt passionate about — I just really didn't want to play the mean girl in high school or the cheerleader," she says.

Trends Report

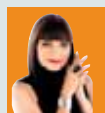
Wouldn't you love a dress that could slim out your silhouette? Go online to Trends Report to see the Chanel outfit actress Keira Knightley wore at a Paris fashion show this month that had the media buzzing about her ultra slim waist.

- Online. Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetrolreneK or Instagram: kuanirene; metronews.ca/voices/trends-report

Photo: Getty Images



Twitter



JEANNE SPACE
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Excited about my vintage 1938 literary purchase in #Warkworth at Camp Ho-Ba-Chee: "Toby Tyler" featuring Mr. Stubbs!



OMG! Look at the great #HonestEds sign my friend got me today. (Had to stand in line 4 hours for it!) #endofanera

5 mistakes that can ruin your reno

Get your house in order.

Avoid these renovation pitfalls to save time, money and your sanity



DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
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1. Not knowing your resale timeline

Is the space you are renovating a limited investment or will you be living in this home for the rest of your life? That influences the amount of time, customization and money you should spend.

A first-time purchaser of a studio-sized condo will most likely only live in it for two to five years before they sell up, so spending a lot of money on things they can't take with them is not a smart idea. A family with school-age children will most likely settle

Resale timeline

For places you will own short-term, spending less than 10 per cent of your home's value on renovations will ensure a good return on the investment. Spend your money on quality items you can take with you to your next place.

in a home for five to 10 years before thinking of reselling.

For places you will own short-term, spending less than 10 per cent of your home's value on renovations will ensure a good return on the investment. I suggest spending your money on quality items you can take with you to your next place. If you plan on staying in one spot for a long time, invest in renovations that help you enjoy the space: Bathrooms, kitchens, family rooms or backyard landscaping are great areas to consider renovating.

2. Hiring a contractor who hasn't worked locally

Hiring a professional contractor who has worked in your local neighbourhood has many advantages:

- It will be easy for you to check references.
- The contractor is familiar with your municipal laws for noise, parking, obtaining permits, etc.
- They know where to grab lunch, shortcuts for driving and local hardware shops for those last-minute items when completing a job.

Always get a least two quotes for the work needed to be done and call at least two references. Always visit at least one reference place (and not the contractor's own home).

3. Not being forthcoming about budgets

When it comes to money,

homeowners (and contractors and trades) lose their ability to talk openly about how much is available and how much is needed. Homeowners think if they disclose their budget, the contractor will use it all and then want more. Contractors think if they commit to a price too early that they will not make any money.

Agree upfront on the budget and work in a bonus for the contractor if they come in on time or spend under the estimated amount.

Always have 20 per cent extra saved for additional upgrades and unforeseen costs and ask for a fixed-cost budget from your contractor. This will ensure that the agreed-upon job is completed before the contractor is fully paid.

4. Forgetting about closets and lighting

Two areas often forgotten about in a renovation are a proper lighting plan and well outfitted closets. A contractor often waits for the homeowner to plan this and homeowners assume its the job of the contractor.

As soon as the closets are drawn on the floor plan, you should start considering how they will be used and what you will need inside of each closet (shelving, rods, lights, drawers, etc.).

Knowing the style, size and weight of each lighting source will allow your contractor to plan your lighting scheme with an electrician.

Having the 150 pound chan-delier on-hand is the best way to plan on how to wire and hang it.

5. Taking advice from too many people

Quite often homeowners are excited about their upcoming project and tell everyone, resulting in opinions from too many people. This will only drive your support team crazy!

You should find one friend who has been through a similar reno and stick with them as a sounding board. Between yourself, your friend,

designer and contractor you will have enough expertise to get the job done. Remember: There can be too many chefs in a kitchen. Thank your uncle, doc-

tor, workmate or distant cousin for their input, but take it all with a grain of salt.



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Cookbook of the Week

From Ireland to your kitchen



Rachel Allen is one of Ireland's bestselling cookbook authors. In Rachel's Irish Family Food, she shares 120 authentic recipes. A healthy mix of traditional and modern Irish cooking, the book also contains stories, history and insights into Irish life from across all the counties of the country. Among the recipes in this book are: Kionoith Pork Casserole, Irish Stew, Irish Sunday Roast, Sautéed Buttered Cabbage, Pea and Spring Onion Champ, and more. **METRO**

Lamb Chops with Parsley and Mint Sauce. St. Paddy's Day is coming up, so get in the kitchen and try this classic dish

"A parsley and mint sauce is an easy way of adding flavour to lamb chops," writes Rachel Allen in Rachel's Irish Family Food.

"The anchovies give the sauce a wonderful depth that works particularly well with lamb and doesn't taste at all fishy. The mint and parsley bring freshness while the capers give the sauce their own particularly punchy flavour.

"You can make the sauce ahead and it will keep in a jar for up to two weeks in the fridge. Do take it out of the fridge about half an hour or so before serving, to give the flavours a chance to wake up.

"The sauce would also be an excellent accompaniment to grilled steak, roast chicken, or pan-fried mack-

Ingredients

- 8-12 lamb loin chops
- 4 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Parsley and Mint Sauce**
- Handful of mint leaves
- 2 handfuls of parsley leaves
- 2 tbsp capers, drained and rinsed
- 8 tinned anchovies
- 6 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 2-4 tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

rel."

1. To make the sauce, combine the herbs, capers, anchovies, olive oil and 2 tablespoons of the lemon juice in a food processor. Whiz for a minute, then add salt and pepper or more lemon juice to taste. If you don't have a food processor you can chop everything finely by hand and mix together.

2. Place a frying pan or griddle pan over high heat.



TOTAL TIME
15 MINUTES

This recipe serves four to six. FROM RACHEL'S IRISH FAMILY FOOD BY RACHEL ALLEN (COLLINS, 2013)

While it is heating, drizzle the lamb chops with the olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Place in the hot

pan and cook for 2-4 minutes on each side, until just pink in the centre. Serve immediately with a driz-

zling of the sauce.

RECIPE FROM RACHEL'S IRISH FAMILY FOOD BY RACHEL ALLEN (COLLINS, 2013)

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Big name Kuchar to tee off at Ashburn Golf Club

Links . PGA Tour star Matt Kuchar to play in Halifax as part of Canada event



PHILIP CROUCHER
philip.croucher@metronews.ca

Halifax golf fans, the news just keeps getting better.

On Wednesday, organizers announced PGA Tour star Matt Kuchar will be one of the Team World players competing in the Canada Cup portion of GOLFest this summer at the new Ashburn Golf Club.

The club in Windsor Junction is hosting Canada's first-ever Web.com Tour event called the Nova Scotia Open, which will feature 156 golfers competing over 72 holes of stroke play from July 3-6.

The tournament is part of the week-long GOLFest that will also see the Canada Cup on June 30. The Canada Cup will include several PGA stars, including Canadians Mike Weir, David Hearn and Graham DeLaet, going up against Team World players, like Kuchar.

"It certainly has a high value and name recognition in the golf world," Grant MacDonald, director of GOLFest Nova Scotia, said of landing a player of Kuchar's talents.

"He's become a fan favourite on the PGA Tour and I think he'll be a fan favourite for the fans here in Halifax."

The other two PGA Tour players for Team World will be announced in the next couple of weeks, MacDonald said.

The Team Canada and Team World teams will each include four players — including one from the Web.com Tour.

The teams will play four single matches on the front nine of Ashburn, then be put into teams of two for the back.

"I am sure that the battle for the Canada Cup and international bragging rights will be a memorable and exciting experience for players and spectators alike," Kuchar said in a statement.

Kuchar, 36, is ranked No. 11 in the World Golf rankings and has six PGA Tour wins to his credit, including the 2013 Memorial Tournament and the 2012 Players Championship.

He's also competed for Team USA at the Ryder Cup in 2012 and 2010 and at the Presidents Cup in 2013 and 2011.

MacDonald said tickets are expected to go on sale in early April, when "the weather starts to turn and people's thoughts turn toward outdoor activities."

SportBox Entertainment is putting on the event and expects the Nova Scotia Open alone to add about \$4 million to the local economy.



Matt Kuchar hits from the bunker during the Cadillac Championship last Friday in Doral, Fla. LYNNE SLADKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"He's tried and tested when it comes to match play and team play."

Grant MacDonald, on Matt Kuchar

Rainmen blow late lead, fall to Storm in OT



Jason Williams of the Halifax Rainmen tries to go around Antonio Ballard of the Island Storm during the first game of their semifinal series at Eastlink Centre in Charlottetown Wednesday night. BRIAN MCINNIS/CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Nick Okorie knocked down six of his 19 points in overtime and led the Island Storm to a 107-95 win over the Halifax Rainmen in NBL Canada playoff action Wednesday in Charlottetown.

Okorie added three assists, one of which went to Ed Jones, whose dunk made the score 98-93 in OT and sent the Storm cruising to the victory.

The Storm leads the best-of-seven Atlantic Division final 1-0. Game 2 is Sunday, at 2 p.m. at Eastlink Centre.

Versatile forward Jeremy

Williams had 16 points and seven rebounds, several of those at clutch times, and helped the Storm erase a nine-point deficit with just under nine minutes left in the fourth quarter.

Much-needed after leading scorer and rebounder Antonio Ballard did not return after a left wrist injury nine minutes into fourth.

Okorie, who played NCAA Division I ball with Texas Tech, also hit two free throws with 16 seconds remaining in the fourth to tie the game 89-89 and

send it into OT. From there, the Storm outscored Halifax 18-6.

Halifax had a 81-72 lead with 9:22 remaining in the game, until the Storm went on a 17-8 run capped by Okorie's two game-tying free throws.

"Defensively we let down a little bit and against a good team like P.E.I. the one possession you take off they take advantage of it," said Matthews, who was 8-for-10 from the charity stripe. "We'll look a film (today) and find our mistakes."

CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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NFL

Elway sells Ware on Broncos deal

The Denver Broncos kept their focus on defence as they agreed to a three-year, \$30-million deal with pass rusher DeMarcus Ware.

Ware didn't fully intend to agree to a deal right away, but was persuaded by Broncos boss John Elway.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Champions League

Messi leads Barca to quarter-finals

Lionel Messi and Dani Alves scored second-half goals as Barcelona beat 10-man Manchester City 2-1 on Wednesday to reach the Champions League quarter-finals for the seventh straight season. Barcelona advanced with a 4-1 aggregate win. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Lionel Messi takes the ball past Vincent Kompany. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cyprus Cup soccer

Canadian women finish 5th in Cyprus

Diana Matheson and Sophie Schmidt scored second-half goals as Canada rallied for a 2-1 win over Ireland to secure fifth place at the Cyprus Cup women's soccer tournament. It marked the first time in six years the Canadians haven't reached the final. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hockey to soccer

Canada's Krueger lands EPL gig

Barely two weeks after helping Canada's hockey team win a gold medal at the Sochi Olympics, Ralph Krueger has been hired as chairman of English Premier League club Southampton. Krueger was a consultant with Canada's men's team.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Downed but never out

Cross-country skiing.

McKeever recovers from a fall to win his second gold medal of the Paralympics

Two hundred metres into the race, Brian McKeever was suddenly on his backside and it appeared his ninth career Paralympic gold medal was slipping away.

But he wasn't letting it go without a fight and the Canmore, Alta., cross-country skier, led by guide Graham Nishikawa of Whitehorse, caught up to the pack to win the men's visually impaired sprint at the Sochi Paralympics on Wednesday.

It's McKeever's second gold of the 2014 Games and the 12th medal of his illustrious Paralympic career. The 34-year-old also won gold in the 20-kilometre event on Monday.

The two Canadians easily advanced to the final, where a Russian skier stepped on McKeever's pole, causing him to crash around the 200-metre mark of the one-kilometre race.

Awaiting a silver medal

Meanwhile, alpine sit-skier Kimberly Joines of Rossland, B.C., finished second in the women's slalom, although the results are still unofficial after a German skier appealed her disqualification from the first run. A decision is expected Thursday morning.

But McKeever scrambled to his feet and, with the help of Nishikawa, caught up to the rest of the pack.

"It wouldn't be right for me to tell you what I said in my head, but once the cuss words were out, the only thing you can do is get back up and race," said McKeever. "I thought we were clear, but that is normal and it happens in sprinting when you are all fighting and tight. Everyone is going flat out. It is intense and everyone is at their limit. We are just fortunate it happened in the first 200 metres and not at the end so we had time to catch up."

Canada has eight medals (two gold, two silver, four bronze) and sits third in the overall tally. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Brian McKeever and his guide Graham Nishikawa win the gold medal in the men's visually impaired one-kilometre sprint at the Paralympic Winter Games on Wednesday in Sochi. MATTHEW MURNAGHAN/CANADIAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jays' Stroman learns not to take his foot off the gas

The education of Jays pitching prospect Marcus Stroman continued Wednesday in a 5-4 exhibition loss to the Tampa Bay Rays.

The 22-year-old right-hander was cruising until the third inning when he loaded the bases with no outs.

A Desmond Jennings bloop single knocked in one run and the Rays scored another through Ali Solis when Matt Joyce hit into a spectacular Jose

On Wednesday

5

Rays

4

Jays

Reyes-Ryan Goins double play. "An unbelievable play," said Stroman, who then took mat-

ters into his own hands.

The five-foot-nine 185-pounder stabbed a hot shot on the mound to escape the inning trailing 2-0.

Jeremy Moore, a 26-year-old minor leaguer, homered off Stroman to make it 3-0 in the fourth with a shot that cleared the 36-foot-high batter's eye looming behind the centre-field fence 400 feet away. Tampa added another run in the sixth.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Ryan asks Astros fans for patience

On his second day as the Houston Astros' executive adviser, Nolan Ryan asked for patience.

The 67-year-old Hall of Famer is back with the team he pitched for during nine of 27 MLB seasons.

During six seasons as president of the Texas Rangers, Ryan helped lead the team to four straight 90-win seasons. The Astros are coming off four consecutive seasons of 100 or more losses. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB. Yankees' Kuroda gives up 6 runs in less than 4 innings vs. Tigers

Hiroki Kuroda gave up six runs and 10 hits over 3 2/3 innings Wednesday as the New York Yankees and Detroit Tigers played to a 7-7 tie in 10 innings.

Nick Castellanos drove in two runs with a double during Detroit's four-run, six-hit first inning against Kuroda. Trevor Crowe had a two-run double during the third.

"I think the velocity is pretty good," Kuroda said through an interpreter. "It's a matter of

small changes mechanically. I need to make adjustments, especially on my slider. I had a hard time finding good pitches, so that's what led to a bad result."

Kuroda also faced the Tigers last Friday, allowing one hit, walking one and striking out five over 2 2/3 scoreless innings.

Anibal Sanchez allowed one run, three hits and struck out three in four innings for Detroit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

The future is not bleak, no matter what some pessimists say. In fact it is exceedingly bright and you are in the right place at the right time to take advantage of all the good things that will be coming.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

It's OK if you want to shut yourself off from the world and be alone with your thoughts for a while. Others may think you are behaving strangely but only because they are insensitive.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

No matter how go-getting and ambitious a Gemini you may be, there are times when even you must slow down and take time to smell the flowers along the way. Like right now.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

If you recently did something wrong then learn from it what you can, then put it behind you and move on. You'll make mistakes tomorrow too, of course, but your successes will far outnumber them.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

If you don't want to do something then leave it. Others may mean that you should be making an effort but they're wrong. You should work only on things that interest you.

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Today's Sun-Saturn link will encourage you to get serious about career prospects. Map out how you see your ambitions unfolding over the next six months — and who you can rely on for support.

♎ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Your sixth sense tells you that something drastic is going to happen. But what some people see as a disaster over the next 24 hours, you will see as a golden opportunity.

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Saturn in your sign, linked to the Sun in Pisces, urges you to take life at a slower pace. What you achieve over the next 24 hours or the next 24 years, will not be determined by speed but staying power.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Don't waste time lamenting what might have been. Sagittarius is a Fire sign, which among other things means you should always be looking forward to the next adventure.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

You may not understand how and why certain events had to happen but you can see there is no point being negative. While others complain today, you will make the most of the changes.

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

There is always an answer, even to the most difficult of questions, so don't lose heart if your existence isn't easy. Despite what some choose to believe life is, was and always will be a garden of delights.

♓ Pisces

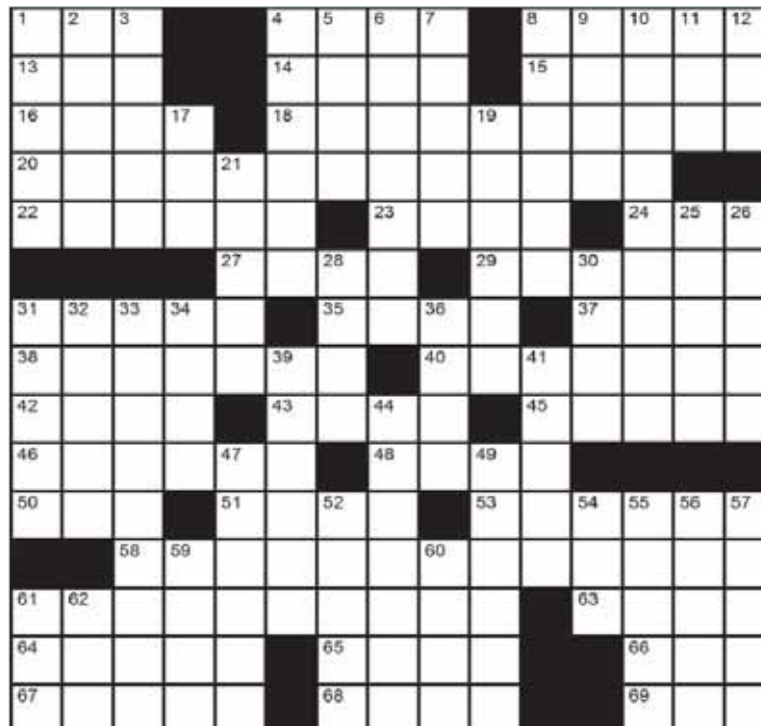
Feb. 20 - March 20

The Sun in your sign is protecting you from harm and with Saturn on your side as well today it's as if you have some kind of force field around keeping negative ideas, and negative people, at bay. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

- Kitty's rival
- Crepe Creme connection: 2 mots
- Eminem's mentor: 2 wds.
- Flight schedule acronym
- City near Provo, Utah
- Baseball great Hank
- Slangy affirmatives
- Trapeze-fallers catchers: 2 wds.
- Creators of Quebec cheese Oka in 1893 in a Cistercian Abbey: 2 wds.
- Calgary's motto on its city crest
- Crossword rendering of an owl couple peering out
- ___ Na Na
- Paul McCartney's 1995 radio show, ___ Joobu
- ___-___ garage
- "Rolie ___ Olie"
- Gas or elec., e.g.
- "Diana" (2013) character
- "Disco Inferno" by The ___
- Modernize
- Shreds
- Prefix to 'dermic' (Syringe sort)
- Prayers' last words
- Oxygen-dependent being
- Canadian musician



- Mr. Kim
50. Chairman Mao's military gr.
51. Bldg. planner
53. "All ___!" (Train call)
58. Randy Jackson's role on "American Idol": 2 wds.
61. Shakespearean

- tragedy about a General of Rome
63. Unaccompanied
64. ___ Building (NYC's mecca of '50/'60s songwriting)
65. Foul
66. Race the engine
67. War horse
68. "Be ___!" (Help

- out!)
69. Saskatoon's airport code

Down

- Banff National Park: ___ Glacier
- Sean Penn movie, "___" (1997)
- Banana/custard
- Square Dancing call
- Ages
- Omitted: 2 wds.
- Write ___ (Do office work)
- Any ___ (Tomorrow, perhaps?)
- Position
- 'No jeans' policy:

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

- 2 wds.
- Moulder
- Nav. designation
- Facials-getting site
- Play the flute
- Preamble
- Actor, Thomas ___ Church
- Botanical casings
- Overly ornate
- Basketball's Lamar
- Sink's plumbing fitting, ___
- Bay window
- Portage ___, Manitoba
- Cream's "___ Glad"
- Music's ___ & Wine
- Carbolic acid
- 1994 Oasis album: 'Definitely ___'
- Soup ingredient
- Look!
- ___ in distress
- Tropical fruit
- Some film roles, Walk-___
- 'Affirm' suffix (Giving assent)
- Watch brand
- Celine Dion song: "I ___ All Night"
- Cairo's river
- ___ Varner, Lee Remick's role in "The Long, Hot Summer" (1958)
- TV network
- Food scrap

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Today

9°/-10°
Showers
40%

Friday

-4°/-6°
Variable

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